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MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1780.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

NUMB. XIV.

THE war at the beginning of the present century, had for its object, on the part of the allies, the preservation of the balance of Europe. For it was apprehended, that should the duke of Anjou, grandson of Louis XIV. be placed on the throne of Spain, it would be to add an accession of force to the house of Bourbon, as would enable it to overthrow the liberties of all the neighbouring states.

"How happy would it be for mankind, if the spirit of politics had but its reasonable fears; or, that the nations concealing themselves under its mask, did not oftentimes affect false tenours, in order to find a pretext to sacrifice all to its caprice! Never had alarms less foundation than those of the allies. If the union of France and Spain was an unhappiness for them, why did they hand the ports closer by their treaty? If Philip V had inherited, without opposition, the provinces of Charles II, we should not have seen the French in the fortresses of the Low Countries, nor in the ports of the Spanish Indies. The two nations, perceiving less the necessity of being united, would, from thence, have conducted themselves according to their antient interests. Louis XIV. in an age now advanced, had not that ardour which inspires the love of war; he had experienced that in making efforts to augment his power, he had, in effect, reduced it. He knew as well the weakness of the dominions of his grandson, to give himself up to the projects of a vast ambition. In spite of that ascendant which France might have had over Philip V. Europe had nothing to fear for the present moment, and she might be well assured, that he would not find in his successors, those sentiments of mutual friendship and regard, which he dreaded, not that union which had reigned amongst the heirs of Charles V and of Ferdinand I.

"By the very situation of their possessions, the two branches of the house of Austria could not surrender themselves, the one at the expence of the other; every source of division was taken away, and the closest alliance could only make them to be reflected by their enemies. It was not the same with regard to the two branches of the house of Bourbon. Their neighbourhood on the side of the Pyrenees, and still more on the side of the Low Countries, must have exposed them to frequent debates and continual suspicions. Bounded, the one by the other, and, of consequence, not having the same interests, they could not have been long friends, or France would have abandoned the projects of ambition which had been objected to her, and with which her neighbours were so groundlessly alarmed. In the one and the other case, the raising the duke of Anjou to the throne of Spain, would have become useless to the aggrandisement of France. The United Provinces had no need of a barrier; their commerce, and that of England, was in safety; and the empire preserved all its rights and its independence, if the French had contented not to trouble their neighbours any more. In supposing, on the contrary, a passion to extend themselves, and to make conquests, Spain must necessarily have taken up the same line of policy which she had pursued under the Austrian princes, and must have connected herself as closely as ever with the states general, England and the Empire.

"In demanding for the emperor the dominions which the Spaniards possessed in the Low Countries, and in Italy, the allies, it is true, would have too much diminished the power of the court of Vienna, but they would have augmented still more considerably the power of France. If the Spanish monarchy had not suffered any dismemberment, her first object always would have been to recover that which she had lost since the peace of the Pyrenees. In suffering, on the contrary, Italy and the Low Countries to fall from her hands, it behoved her to forget her old disgraces, and to be occupied with the new.* It was proper that she should consider as her enemies the court of Vienna, England and the United Provinces, who had deprived her. It was requisite, as a necessary consequence, to throw herself into the arms of France. From thence these two powers would have the same enemies, and the same interests, and France would possess, in some sort, all the strength which the allies have not been able to take from the court of Madrid. Let it be examined attentively, if it was not really to serve Spain, to injure her as much, and to take away from her the foreign possessions, which had been a principal cause of her decline. Let it also be examined attentively, if it was in reality to augment the strength of the court of Vienna, to give it Italy and the Low Countries. Shall we always believe that the power of a state depends on the possession of a province more or less? When once it possesses a certain extent of territory, to what purpose have those provinces scattered on the one side and on the other, and which cannot mutually assist each other? It is to multiply frontiers, enemies, affairs, and embarrassments.

If they had set off from this point of view in the negotiations which were carried at the Hague, they would have spared to Europe one of the most cruel wars with which she has been afflicted. But an unjust hatred blinded all minds; a sort of routine took the place of policy; and all the world trembled for the ruin of a system of balance, of which there was not one person that had any just idea. They believed that this balance ought to be established on an equality of power between the house of Bourbon and the house of Austria, and that all would be lost if the one took an ascendant too considerable over the other; but this was a false principle. A thousand examples prove, that men are not friends from being of the same blood; an house may then acquire kingdoms for her princes, and not be more formidable to Europe. It is still further evident, that the dominant power may bring itself down; the rival power may decline; both may ruin themselves at once, or successively, and take the place, the one of the other, and not in the mean time cause it to follow, that the liberty of other states shall be exposed to any danger; there will result from this only new interests, new alliances, and new ties. Shall we fear that there will be a great power, and that there will not, at the same time, spring up a rival power? It would be a fear the most ridiculous."

These have been the reasonings of an able French writer; † and Mrs. Macaulay, an English lady, reflecting on this subject, tells us, "that England was engaged in war for the idle pretence of fixing a balance of power, which in all probability would have been better settled if she had never interfered. †"

France, in this war, had neither the ministers nor the generals which had been heretofore the soul of her success; since the peace of Ryswick, she had not established any order in her finances; her people were exhausted, and she could not count much upon the allies which she had made to defend the rights of Philip V. It was evident that Portugal, the natural ally of France, while Spain belonged to a prince of the house of Austria, would become that of England and the United States, from the advancement of the duke of Anjou to the throne. France, for many years before, was not so closely united to Sweden as she had been, and besides, the troubles which threatened the north, did not permit her to afford any assistance.

No one is ignorant of the losses of Louis XIV in this war, they were such, that he saw himself obliged to seek peace on the most severe conditions, which were nevertheless refused, and scarcely did the ministers consent to make one sacrifice, when new pretensions were advanced. "The most evidence, says that monarch, in a letter which he writ to the governors of the provinces of his kingdoms, a readiness, and desire to dissipate the apprehensions which my enemies affect to entertain of my power, and my designs, the more do they multiply their pretensions; to that now by the progress of new demands to the first, they have equally given me to see that their intention is only to aggrand themselves at the expence of my crown, the states neighbouring to France, and to open to early view to penetrate into the interior of my kingdoms, as long as it shall be convenient for their interests to commence a new war. That which I claim and would be willing to accomplish, would not be yielded, even when I should have consented to all the propositions which they have made; for they ask, at two months, the time in which I ought, on my part, to execute the treaty, and during this interval they pretend to oblige me to give up those places which they demand of me in the Low Countries, and in Alsace, and to raise those of which they demand the demolition. They refuse, on their part, to lay themselves under any obligation, but simply to cease hostilities until the first of August, reserving the liberty of acting then by the force of arms, if my grandson, the king of Spain, shall persist in his resolution to defend the crown which God has given him, and to perish rather than abandon a faithful people, who, for nine years, have acknowledged him their lawful king. A suspension of this nature, more dangerous than war, would throw peace at a distance, rather than advance the conclusion of it; for it would be not only necessary to continue the same expence for the support of my armies, but the time of the expension being expired, my enemies would attack me with the new advantages which they had drawn from the places where myself had introduced them, at the same time that I had demolished those which serve for ramparts to some of my frontier provinces. I pass over in silence the insinuations which they have made to me, to join my troops to those of the league, to force my grandson to descend from his throne, if he does not consent voluntarily to live from this time without possessions, and to reduce himself simply to the situation of a private person." When we consider these circumstances of the monarch, and the spirit of the allies, of which England was the chief, we must be sensible, notwithstanding our antient prejudices in her favour, that the British nation has been, at all times, like the animals, and especially the mastiffs of her island, fierce and untractable in temper; warlike indeed, but never satisfied in exulting over a vanquished enemy. It it not necessary to be a Frenchman, says a writer of that nation; * it is sufficient to be a man, to feel indignation for that fierce policy; and long ago there was but one person in Holland who had not had a soul generous enough to condemn it."

It was not until after many propositions and fruitless negotiations on the part of France, that peace was finally concluded at Utrecht, April 11, 1713. A destructive war was thus finally compoled, not owing to any moderation on the part of the allies, but to a change in the ministry of England. The duchess of Marlborough, by some unguarded word, had lost the favour of her mistress queen Anne, and the lady Masham, by some other word expressed in a different way, had happened to please her. It is enough to make one despise the world, and to set down knowledge and ability, and even virtue, as empty names, when we consider that things are so constituted, that it may be in the power of the self love and caprice of one human mind, to give peace or war to ten nations.

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

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* Ib. Mal. † Lett. to the Wh.

CHATHAM, *December 21.*

BY intelligence from New-York we learn that their maritime force at that post, consists of five ships of the line and six frigates; that 3000 troops are ready to sail to the southward under sir Henry Clinton, and 2000 under lord Cornwallis, their destination uncertain, but it is thought to amuse general Washington; yet, from an apprehension that count d'Estaing is on the coast, the sailing of the fleets are retarded.

PHILADELPHIA, *Jan. 4.*

The following letter was found on board a vessel lately taken on her passage from St. Augustine to Antigua.

Copy of a letter from major-general Prevost, to the honourable vice-admiral Byron, dated at Savannah, in Georgia, the 9th September, 1779.

SIR,

As it may be of consequence to his majesty's service, that you should have every possible intelligence of the motions of the French fleet, I think it my duty, by this express, to acquaint

* Ib. Mal.

you, that the count d'Estaing is now at anchor with twenty-five sail of the line, or two deckers, in a line across this bay, or entrance of the harbour; he has also seven or eight frigates. What his further views or designs may be, I cannot take upon me to say, though if he intends any thing against us, he must do it speedily, as this is not a coast to remain long at, in this season of the year.

Several of his ships appear disabled. It is not impossible, but his serious views are to the northward of this—perhaps Rhode-Island, or New-York, but I can only conjecture.

He is also accompanied by some transports, or merchant vessels, but as his appearance here, was probably as unexpected to the rebels of Carolina, as it was to us, I do not think they are as yet in readiness, to make a very formidable co-operation with the count.—I cannot learn that there was any extraordinary stir among them—no doubt, all the force they can now muster, will be in motion against us, but my hopes are, that he cannot stay long enough on the coast, to give any very effectual countenance or support to them. We are however using every endeavour to put this place in the best posture of defence, that time and other circumstances will admit of. We are not afraid of any one of them, but both together may be too many for us, if they should be able to effect a junction, and the French land force is any thing considerable. We are ourselves at present (unfortunately as matters appear) somewhat disjointed, having a considerable detachment at Beaufort, in Carolina, I hope they will get through this day, the passage is still unoccupied by the French.

On our return from Charles Town, it was reckoned a most eligible measure to keep a hold of Carolina, Beaufort in particular, and indeed nothing but a superiority at sea against us, would make the measure cease to be an advantageous one in every view, both with regard to the defence of this province, and offensive operations against Carolina.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
(Signed) PREVOST.

Hon. vice-admiral Byron.

Jan. 12. For several days past we have had accounts of vessels being drove ashore, along the sea coast, in the late severe gales, but cannot find that any of them are to be depended on, except that a brig of 20 guns, belonging to the enemy, is ashore near South-Amboy, and a ship of 20 guns at Squan.

We hear that on Thursday afternoon last, as the ship Revolution, captain M'Nachtain, was lying at anchor in the Delaware, a large cake of ice came across her cable, which cut the same; and she was drove ashore on Dunck's bar opposite Bombay-Hook. The ship and cargo will be saved with the loss of her fore-mast cut, and mainmast carried away.

ANNAPOLIS, *January 21.*

An ACT to appoint commissioners to state and settle the public accounts.

WHEREAS it is thought expedient, that commissioners be appointed to state and settle the public accounts, and that they have power to call on all persons indebted for settlement and payment of their balances;

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Stephen West, William Stephenson, and Lewis Neth, or any two of them, be and are hereby appointed commissioners for stating and settling the public accounts; and that they have full powers to inspect and examine the accounts and proceedings of the late and present auditer-general, and see that the same be properly posted and entered up; also the accounts and proceedings of the late and present commissary of stores, commissioners of the loan-office, and quarter master; and that they have full power to call on the governor and council for the journals and proceedings of the council of safety, and of the late governor and council, thereby to facilitate their enquiries into the loan and disposition of all public monies; and that they have full powers to call on the commissioners of the tax and the collectors of the same, to render full accounts of their respective proceedings, and see that the same be properly closed and finished, according to the directions of the several acts of assembly relating thereto; and that they have full powers to call on all persons who have had public monies advanced to them by the conventions, general assembly, council of safety, or by order of the late governor and council, to render an account thereof; and in general, that they, or any two of them, have full powers to enquire into the receipt and expenditure of all public monies; and that they have power to send for persons, papers, and records; and all sheriffs and other officers are hereby strictly enjoined to obey the precepts by them issued, for calling before them all persons against whom any balance may appear, under the penalty of five hundred pounds for neglect or refusal; and that they have full power to enquire into all contracts with the public for manufactures of any kind, and may cause such suits to be brought in the name of the state as they may think reasonable for breach of contract, and in such case of breach of contract may compromise the same on such terms as they or any two of them, with the approbation of the governor and council, may agree upon; also may order suits to be brought for balances that may appear due, first giving notice thereof to the party, and that they have power to appoint a clerk and door keeper, and that they make report of their proceedings to the next general assembly; and that the said commissioners and their clerk shall receive the same daily allowance, and itinerant charges, as shall be allowed to the members of the general assembly, and their door keeper shall receive the same daily allowance as the door keeper of the house of delegates.

Paid

This act to continue until the first day of November next, and to the end of the next session of assembly which shall happen thereafter.

IN COUNCIL,
Annapolis, Dec. 30, 1779.

THIS board being of opinion, that it would be the means of procuring a higher price for the salt-petre, salt-pans, kettles, and other utensils for making salt and salt-petre, belonging to this state, in the hands of contractors and others, if such persons were directed to sell the same at the places where they are now deposited,

Paid.

ORDERED THEREFORE, That all contractors and others, having any of the above enumerated articles in their possession, be authorised and directed to sell the same at public sale immediately, and render an account of such sales to this board.

IN COUNCIL,
Annapolis, Jan. 19, 1779.

WHEREAS, by the act for the more effectual preventing forestalling and engrossing, and for other purposes therein mentioned, passed at a session of assembly, begun and held at the city of Annapolis on the eighth day of November, 1779, the governor and council are authorised and requested to lay out and divide the several counties of this state into eight districts; in pursuance whereof, it is hereby ordered, that the several counties in this state be divided and said out into eight districts, in the following manner, to wit. Harford and Baltimore the first, Washington and Frederick the second, Montgomery and Prince-George's the third, Anne-Arundel and Calvert the fourth, Charles and St. Mary's the fifth, Kent, Cæcil and Queen-Anne's the sixth, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester the seventh, Somerset and Worcester the eighth district.

Paid

By order,
T. JOHNSON jun. cl.

Extracts from the act, entitled, An act for the more effectual preventing forestalling and engrossing, and for other purposes therein mentioned, passed at a session of assembly, begun and held at the city of Annapolis, on the eighth day of November, 1779.

"*And be it enacted*, That no person shall be permitted to act within this state as commissary-general, agent, quarter-master-general, or as deputy to either, for the United States, before such person or persons have been licensed by the governor and council of this state, and all persons applying for such licence shall produce their commission to the governor and council, if the same hath not been already done, who on examination thereof, shall cause the date of such commission, and the name of the person producing the same, to be entered on their proceedings, and also the district in which such person, so licensed as aforesaid, shall be permitted to exercise his office, and the governor and council are hereby requested to transmit to the clerks of the several counties, a list of the names of all persons by them licensed as aforesaid, and the district in which they are permitted to purchase, which said list shall be deposited among the records of each county, and shall also publish the names and districts of the persons so licensed, in the Annapolis and Baltimore gazette, that the same may be known to the inhabitants of this state.

"*And be it enacted*, That the governor and the council be authorised and requested to lay out and divide the several counties of this state into eight districts, of which five shall be called the western, and three on the eastern shore, and may also appoint such magistrates of the counties, licensed as aforesaid, to exercise his office in one of the aforesaid districts, and if any person or persons, so appointed and licensed to execute his said office in any other district than that to which he is assigned, or shall act as deputy without being licensed as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay for every offence the sum of one thousand pounds.

"*Provided nevertheless*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed or taken to prohibit the commissary or deputy commissary-general, the quarter-master or deputy quarter-master-generals, of the United States, from purchasing any of the articles aforesaid in any part of this state.

"*And be it enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any person to act as commissary-general, quarter-master-general, or as deputy to either in this state, nor shall any person be licensed by the governor and the council, as herein before directed, unless such person, before he acts as such, and before he shall be licensed as aforesaid, take an oath, (or affirmation, if a quaker, mennonist or dunker) "that he will not, during the time he shall act as such, or be licensed as aforesaid, be directly or indirectly concerned or engaged in any merchandise either foreign or domestic, by buying and selling for gain;" which oath or affirmation any justice of the peace may administer or take, and if any person shall act as such after the first day of February next, before taking such oath or affirmation, he shall forfeit one thousand pounds for every offence.

Paid

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.
Head of Severn, Jan. 25, 1780.

STOLEN from the subscriber, on Thursday morning the 13th instant, a coat, jacket and breeches, a pair of mittens, a comb, an ax, some powder in an osnabrig bag, and shot in a leather one. They were stolen by one PATRICK RILEY, an Irishman, about 5 feet 10 inches high, has yellow hair, a dark brown country cloth coat and breaches, and a whitish jacket, the breeches have a hole torn in the thigh; he has a cut over his eyes, a full red face, and very large legs. He has a pass, which mentions his having had one from the governor of Virginia, which he has lost, and that he is a deserter from the Virginia army; he had with him a white bitch, with yellow spots, short ears and tail. Whoever will secure the said Riley so that he be brought to justice, shall receive one hundred dollars if taken in the county, and if out of the county, the above reward, paid by

tow. 10 JOHN M'COY.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.
January 5, 1780.

RAN away from the subscriber's plantation, about seven miles from Annapolis, on the main road leading from thence to Baltimore, on Monday the 21st day of December last, a likely young NEGRO man, named TOM, about five feet eight inches high, a stout well set fellow, with thick lips, and his legs rather large; had on when he went away, a light coloured country made cloth jacket, with a red short waistcoat under it, a pair of light coloured country cloth breeches, and also took with him a pair of leather breeches, dark coloured yarn stockings, and two pair of shoes. It is apprehended that he may have endeavoured to get over into Virginia, from whence he was brought when a small boy and was then the property of John Morton Jordan, Esq; deceased. Whoever will apprehend the said negro, and bring him to the subscriber, shall receive the above reward if taken in Maryland, and if out of Maryland a further reward of one hundred dollars, besides all reasonable charges, paid by

3 ELIZABETH SCOTT.

A PETITION will be offered to the first session of the general assembly after this notice shall have been published eight weeks, for an act admitting to record, and giving effect from the date to a deed executed in Prince-George's county, by George Conn to Isaac Shaw, for part of a tract of land called Whitton and Anne.

w8 5 RICHARD HENDERSON.

CASH given for clean Linen and Cotton RAGS. 6

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